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State Department review completed

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WESTERN EUROPE

4. New East German travel checks may curtail refugee flow:

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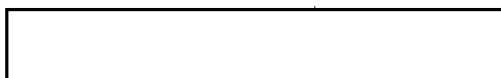


The recent institution by the East German police of checks on travelers entering Berlin on the S-Bahn, or elevated, may close an important avenue of escape

for refugees and might seriously handicap any future relief programs for Soviet zone residents, according to American officials in Bonn. They also fear that the ten-minute police checks of S-Bahn passengers traveling from the Soviet zone may be extended also to travel between the east and west sectors of Berlin.

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Comment: The East German police have been examining luggage and documents of S-Bahn passengers at the Soviet zone border since 18 October. The S-Bahn has been one of the principal routes used by refugees who continue to arrive in West Berlin at a rate of about 500 daily.

5. France reluctant to become involved in question of Trieste troop withdrawals:

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French foreign minister Bidault believes that a French request to Yugoslavia and Italy to withdraw their troops from the Trieste area would be inadvisable. He

told the American and British ambassadors in London on 26 October that such a request would certainly be rejected by Yugoslavia and could lead to a break in diplomatic relations. Bidault added, however, that he would express personally to the Yugoslav foreign secretary and to Italian premier Pella his concern over troop movements.

Bidault also said that since the basic question was political, details of military problems should be put aside pending further three-power discussion. He felt that an acceptable solution could be found only by a realistic "whittling down" of the conflicting demands of Rome and Belgrade.

LATIN AMERICA

6. Threat seen to prestige of US air missions in Latin America:

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Royal air force officers rather than British civilians are now scheduled to train Venezuelans in the use of British jet bombers. The American embassy

in Caracas believes such a development could set a precedent seriously damaging to the effectiveness and prestige of United States military missions in Venezuela and other Latin American countries.

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Comment: Employment of British officers for this purpose, if not approved by the United States, would constitute a formal breach of the air mission agreement with Venezuela and would pose a new threat to the whole program of arms standardization in the hemisphere. The Venezuelan air force chief would probably not risk such a breach and might in any case prefer qualified American personnel.

British jet aircraft now compose over 20 percent of the Venezuelan air force; Brazil and Argentina have also procured considerable numbers of British jets.

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